

RESPONSE

Claims 1-4, 7-15, and 19-26 are currently pending in the Application. In the Final Office Action mailed January 18, 2006, the Examiner notes that all previous grounds of rejection with respect to the currently pending claims have been withdrawn. The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 2 and 20-26. However, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-14 and 19 stand newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,745 to Collins et. al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,366 to Grochowski et. al. Furthermore, claims 9 and 15 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants hereby cancel rejected claim 19. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all limitations of allowable claim 9, without any intention of disclaiming equivalents thereof. Similarly, independent claim 14 has been amended to include all limitations of allowable claim 15. Claims 9 and 15 have been canceled. Rejected claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10-13, which are now dependent on allowable independent claim 1, should be in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-14 and 20-26 will be pending in this application. Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance and request early favorable action by the Examiner. The Applicant asserts that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, and requests that the Examiner enter the amendments and move the allowed and allowable claims toward issuance.

If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants: Long et al.

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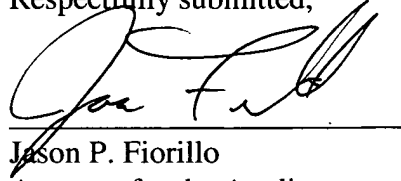
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Reg. No.: 52,892

Tel. No. (617) 261-3186

Fax No. (617) 261-3175

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason P. Fiorillo", is written over a horizontal line.

Jason P. Fiorillo

Attorney for the Applicants

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham

75 State Street

Boston, MA 02109